



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY  
SUPERFUND SITE STRATEGY RECOMMENDATION - REGION 06



Site Name: United Western Mine - NM0104

CERCLIS ID#: N/A

Alias Site Name: J and M, Section 36, Lease 60-167, VCA mine

Address: Latitude 35 degrees 24'20.64" Longitude 107 degrees 50'23.76"

City/County or Parish/State/Zip: McKinley County, New Mexico

Report Type: Pre-CERCLIS Screening

Date: 10/08/10

Author: NMED

**RECOMMENDATION:**

<input type="checkbox"/> 1. No Further Remedial Action Planned Under Superfund (NFRAP)	<input type="checkbox"/> 2. Further Investigation Needed Under Superfund												
	<table><tr><td><input type="checkbox"/> PA</td><td><input type="checkbox"/> HRS</td><td>Priority: <input type="checkbox"/> High</td></tr><tr><td><input type="checkbox"/> SI</td><td><input type="checkbox"/> RI/FS</td><td><input type="checkbox"/> Low</td></tr><tr><td><input type="checkbox"/> ESI</td><td><input type="checkbox"/> RA</td><td></td></tr><tr><td><input type="checkbox"/> Other:</td><td colspan="2"></td></tr></table>	<input type="checkbox"/> PA	<input type="checkbox"/> HRS	Priority: <input type="checkbox"/> High	<input type="checkbox"/> SI	<input type="checkbox"/> RI/FS	<input type="checkbox"/> Low	<input type="checkbox"/> ESI	<input type="checkbox"/> RA		<input type="checkbox"/> Other:		
<input type="checkbox"/> PA	<input type="checkbox"/> HRS	Priority: <input type="checkbox"/> High											
<input type="checkbox"/> SI	<input type="checkbox"/> RI/FS	<input type="checkbox"/> Low											
<input type="checkbox"/> ESI	<input type="checkbox"/> RA												
<input type="checkbox"/> Other:													
<input type="checkbox"/> 3. Action Deferred to: <input type="checkbox"/> RCRA <input type="checkbox"/> NRC <input type="checkbox"/> BLM													
<input type="checkbox"/> 4. Site Being Addressed Under the State Voluntary Cleanup Program (VCP): <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No													

**NOTIFY AUTHORITY:**

<input type="checkbox"/> Removal	<input type="checkbox"/> RCRA	<input type="checkbox"/> TSCA	<input type="checkbox"/> CAA	<input type="checkbox"/> SMCRA
<input type="checkbox"/> Remedial	<input type="checkbox"/> State/Tribe	<input type="checkbox"/> NPDES	<input type="checkbox"/> NRC	<input type="checkbox"/> Resource Trustee:
<input type="checkbox"/> CERCLA	<input type="checkbox"/> Federal	<input type="checkbox"/> UIC	<input type="checkbox"/> SPCC	<input type="checkbox"/> Other:
Enforcement	Facility			

SEND SSSR COPIES TO: ☐ 6SF-AC ☐ 6WQ-SP ☐ ATSDR ☒ State Agency ☐ Tribal Agency

**DISCUSSION:**

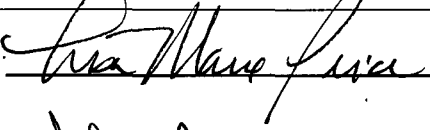
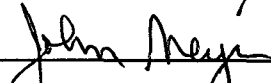
The New Mexico Energy Minerals and Natural Resources Department, Mine and Minerals Division (MMD) conducted a site assessment in 2008 at the United Western Mine site, and the New Mexico Environment Department (NMED) conducted a visual assessment on May 11, 2010 at the United Western Mine site. The mine operated as a wet mine. The mine site is located on the immediate northwest boundary of the Rio Algom Mill and is within the NRC permit area. The shaft was started in 1954 and the mine was last active in the early 1960's, producing a small quantity of ore. According to records, the shaft was backfilled and buildings were removed in the late 1980's. Gamma radiation readings were taken by MMD in 2008, with a maximum reading of 30 uR/hr being measured. MMD photographed a wooden structure that served as the powder magazine.

In August 2011, EPA conducted an aerial radiological survey in the northwestern portion of the Ambrosia Lake sub-district by using the Airborne Spectral Photometric Environmental Collection Technology (ASPECT). The United Western Mine was included in the ASPECT survey. The gamma radiation readings at the United Western Mine site were statistically greater than background readings in the area. The mine site should be investigated to determine the source of the high gamma radiation readings.

EPA is referring the United Western Mine to NMED for the investigation into the impacts from the discharge of mine water pursuant to the New Mexico Water Quality Control Commission regulations.



**APPROVALS:**

<b>Report Reviewed by:</b>	<u>Lisa Marie Price</u> (Site Assessment Manager)	<b>Signature:</b>	<u></u>	<b>Date:</b>	<u>12/13/11</u>
<b>Disposition Approved by:</b>	<u>John Meyer</u> (Section Chief 6SF-TR)	<b>Signature:</b>	<u></u>	<b>Date:</b>	<u>12/20/11</u>